

REMARKS

This Amendment is in response to the Official Action dated November 11, 2007. Claims 14-16 have been amended to include the subject matter of former claims 18 and 19, and claims 1, 5, 7, 8, 18, and 19 have been canceled; as such claims 14-17 and 20-22 are now pending in this application. Claims 14-16 are independent claims. Reconsideration and allowance is requested in view of the claim amendments and the following remarks.

Information Disclosure Statements

With respect to the Information Disclosure Statement filed August 25, 2006, Applicant submits that the IDS included a typo, inadvertently reciting JPO Action 2002-079529 instead of JPO Action 2002-079528. Applicant graciously requests that the examiner correct this mistake on the previously submitted IDS and review JPO Action 2002-079528, already submitted with the IDS filed on August 25, 2006.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

Claims 1, 5, 7-8, and 14-18 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,412,402 to Searby.

The rejection is moot with respect to claims 1, 5, 7-8, which have been canceled.

By this amendment, each of independent claims 14-16 have been placed in allowable form through the incorporation of the subject matter formerly found in claims 18 and 19. Accordingly, the rejection as to these claims, and to those claims dependent thereon, is now moot.

Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 20 and 21 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being obvious over Searby in view of U.S. Publication No. 2002/0145902 to Kunikiyo. Claim 22 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being obvious over Searby in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,052,302 to Moyer.

Applicants submit that these rejections are moot, as claims 20-22 depend on claim 17, which in turn depends on claim 16. Claim 16 now incorporates the allowable subject matter from former claim 19.

In view of the above amendment, applicant believes the pending application is in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

Applicant believes no fee is due with this response. However, if a fee is due, please charge our Deposit Account No. 18-0013, under Order No. SON-2624 from which the undersigned is authorized to draw.

Dated: January 31, 2008

Respectfully submitted,

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